

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 03333 301732Z

53

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-10 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-03 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15

CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01

SIL-01 LAB-04 SY-05 OPR-02 FBO-02 A-01 /078 W

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P R 301530Z APR 75

FM AMEMBASSY ATHENS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8600

INFO USMISSION GENEVA

USEC BRUSSELS 999

AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

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EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ELAB GR

SUBJECT: LABOR - MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS

1. GOG ANNOUNCED LAST WEEK THAT MAY DAY THIS YEAR WILL BE CELEBRATED MAY 9 RATHER THAN MAY 1 DUE TO FACT THAT LATTER DATE IS DURING GREEK EASTER HOLY WEEK. THE GENERAL CONFEDERATION OF GREEK WORKERS (GSEE) FOLLOWED THE GOVT'S LEAD AND ANNOUNCED THAT IT, AND ITS AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS, WILL STAGE THEIR LABOR DAY GATHERINGS AND MANIFESTATIONS ON MAY 9, BUT THAT THEY WOULD CALL FOR A "SYMBOLIC" 15 MINUTE WORK STOPPAGE TO OCCUR BETWEEN 1100 AND 1115 HOURS MAY 1. IN THE ATHENS AREA, THE LABOR CENTERS OF ATHENS AND PIRAEUS WILL HOLD A JOINT GATHERING AT KOTZIA SQUARE IN DOWNTOWN ATHENS AT 1030 ON MAY 9 AT WHICH A WREATH LAYING CEREMONY AND SPEECHES WILL TAKE PLACE.

2. THE INTERNAL BRANCH OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF GREECE (KKE-INTERIOR) HAS ALSO CALLED FOR ITS ADHERENTS TO SUPPORT THE GSEE'S DECISION TO CELEBRATE MAY 9 AS MAY DAY. IN ITS PROCLAMATION, IT INVITED ALL WORKERS

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PAGE 02 ATHENS 03333 301732Z

TO ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH THE NATION'S LABOR ORGANIZATIONS

IN PRESENTING A UNITED AND DISCIPLINED FRONT THRU A  
UNIFIED MAY DAY CELEBRATION ON MAY 9. HOWEVER THE  
ANARCHIST ORIENTED EKKE (REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST MOVEMENT  
OF GREECE) -- THE SAME ORGANIZATION WHICH "CLAIMED CREDIT"  
FOR APRIL 21 ATTACK ON OUR EMBASSY HERE -- CALLED FOR  
WORKERS AND LABOR ORGANIZATIONS TO HOLD THEIR MAY DAY  
CELEBRATIONS ON MAY 1 DESPITE THE GOVTS APPEAL.  
IT SUGGESTED THAT WORKERS GATHER AT 1000 HOURS THAT DAY  
TO DEMONSTRATE AT KOTZIA SQUARE -- SAME SITE WHERE  
THE MAY 9 DEMONSTRATION OF LABOR ORGAN ADHERING  
TO THE GOVTS DECISION WILL BE HELD.

3. SAME AVAILABLE INFO HAS SUGGESTED THAT THE  
EXTERNAL BRANCH OF THE GREEK COMMUNIST (KKE-EXTERIOR)  
ALSO SUPPORTS EKKE'S CALL FOR MAY 1 DEMONSTRATION.  
HOWEVER, IN THE APRIL 29 AND 30 ISSUES OF RIZOSPASTIS (WHICH  
REFLECTS KKE-EXTERIOR VIEWS) ARTICLES SUGGESTED THAT WORKERS  
ENGAGE ONLY IN WORK STOPPAGES AND OTHER "APPROPRIATE  
ABSTENTION ACTIVITIES" ON THAT DAY.

4. WE SUBSEQUENTLY LEARNED THAT THE EKKE REQUEST FOR  
PERMISSION TO MEET IN KOTZIA SQUARE HAD BEEN REJECTED BY  
POLICE AUTHORITIES BUT THAT POLICE INDICATED MEETING  
COULD TAKE PLACE AT PEDION AREOS. HOWEVER EKKE WILL  
APPARENTLY ATTEMPT HOLD ITS MEETING IN KOTZIA SQUARE  
ANYWAY. COMMENT: IF THIS LATTER REPORT IS TRUE, SUCH  
DEFIANCE OF POLICE ORDER COULD RESULT IN SOME SCUFFLES  
TOMORROW. IN ANY EVENT WE HAVE NO INFO  
INDICATING THAT PLANS TO MARCH ON EMBASSY MAY 1.  
KUBISCH

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